

ARGYNNIS CHLORODIPPE VILLIERS & GUENÉE, 1835 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA): PROPOSED SUPPRESSION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1801

By N. D. Riley (*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

In 1835 (*Tab. syn. Lep. Europe: 56*) Villiers and Guenée described, as a species occurring in Sicily, a variety of the well-known High Brown Fritillary *Argynnis adippe* Schiffermueller, 1775, and gave to it the name *Argynnis chlorodippe*. It was in fact the well-known form of *A. adippe* in which the silver markings of the undersides of the wings are replaced by buff, a form which had already been described by Ochseneimer (1816, *Schmett. Eur. 4* : 118) as *Argynnis cleodoxa*.

2. In 1851 (*Syst. Schmett. Europe 6* : 5) Herrich-Schaeffer described the very different and distinct subspecies of *Argynnis adippe* that occurs in Spain, also under the name *Argynnis chlorodippe*, being apparently unaware of the existence of the name *Argynnis chlorodippe* Villiers and Guenée.

3. Consistently since 1851 the Spanish subspecies of *A. adippe* has always been known either as *Argynnis adippe chlorodippe* H.S. or as a distinct species as *Argynnis chlorodippe* H.S. to all students of the European Rhopalocera. I can find only one reference to *Argynnis chlorodippe* Villiers and Guenée, namely by W. F. Kirby who simply lists it in his *Synonymic Catalogue of Diurnal Lepidoptera* (1891 : 158). I know of no case in which the name has been used in a taxonomic or faunistic paper dealing with the butterflies of any part of Europe or with *Argynnis adippe* in particular. Nevertheless it is a senior primary homonym of *A. chlorodippe* Herrich-Schaeffer.

4. *Argynnis adippe* is not a butterfly of any economic importance or great biological interest, yet it is one of the best known of European butterflies. It would seem a pity to allow a long forgotten senior homonym to supplant the very familiar name, *chlorodippe* H.S., of its most striking subspecies. Accordingly I invite the International Commission:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *chlorodippe* Villiers and Guenée, 1835, as published in the binomen *Argynnis chlorodippe*, for the purposes of both the Law of Priority and the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the specific name *chlorodippe* Herrich-Schaeffer, 1851, as published in the binomen *Argynnis chlorodippe*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.